

What is claimed is

1. A point of interest (POI) search method for a navigation system, comprising the following steps of:

starting a POI search process;

5 specifying a name of a street to retrieve POIs along the street; and

displaying a list of POIs retrieved along the specified street.

2. A point of interest (POI) search method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the step of specifying a type of POIs or a name of POI to be retrieved.

3. A point of interest (POI) search method as defined in Claim 1, said step of specifying the name of the street includes a step of specifying a name of a city, thereby retrieving POIs along the specified street within the specified city.

4. A point of interest (POI) search method as defined in Claim 1, said step of specifying the name of the street includes a step of selecting whether to retrieve POIs along an entire range of the specified street or to retrieve POIs along the specified street within a city specified by the user.

5. A point of interest (POI) search method as defined in Claim 1, said step of specifying the name of the street includes a step of specifying a first intersection of the street and a second intersection of the street, thereby retrieving POIs along the specified street between the first and second intersections.

6. A point of interest (POI) search method as defined in Claim 1, said step of specifying the name of the street includes a step of selecting whether to retrieve POIs along an entire range of the specified street or to retrieve POIs along the specified street between two intersections specified by the user.

7. A point of interest (POI) search method as defined in Claim 1, said step of specifying the name of the street includes a step of selecting whether to retrieve POIs along an entire range of the specified street, to retrieve POIs
5 along the specified street within a city specified by the user, or to retrieve POIs along the specified street between two intersections specified by the user.

8. A point of interest (POI) search method for a navigation system, comprising the following steps of:
10 starting a POI search process in which a name of POI or a type of POI is selectable by a user;
performing a search-by-street process in which at least a name of a street is specified by the user;
retrieving POIs along the street specified by the
15 user and displaying the POIs retrieved along the street to select one of them as a destination; and
determining a route to the destination and performing route guidance to the destination.

9. A point of interest (POI) search method as defined
20 in Claim 8, said step of performing the search-by-street process includes a step of specifying a name of a city, thereby retrieving POIs along the specified street within the specified city.

10. A point of interest (POI) search method as defined
25 in Claim 8, said step of performing the search-by-street process includes a step of specifying a first intersection of the street and a second intersection of the street, thereby retrieving POIs along the specified street between the first and second intersections.

30 11. A point of interest (POI) search apparatus for a navigation system, comprising:
means for starting a POI search process;
means for specifying a name of a street to retrieve POIs along the street; and

means for displaying a list of POIs retrieved along the specified street.

5 12. A point of interest (POI) search apparatus as defined in Claim 11, further comprising means for specifying a type of POIs or a name of POI to be retrieved.

10 13. A point of interest (POI) search apparatus as defined in Claim 11, said means for specifying the name of the street includes means for specifying a name of a city, thereby retrieving POIs along the specified street within the specified city.

15 14. A point of interest (POI) search apparatus as defined in Claim 11, said means for specifying the name of the street includes means for selecting whether to retrieve POIs along an entire range of the specified street or to retrieve POIs along the specified street within a city specified by the user.

20 15. A point of interest (POI) search apparatus as defined in Claim 11, said means for specifying the name of the street includes means for specifying a first intersection of the street and a second intersection of the street, thereby retrieving POIs along the specified street between the first and second intersections.

25 16. A point of interest (POI) search apparatus as defined in Claim 11, said means for specifying the name of the street includes means for selecting whether to retrieve POIs along an entire range of the specified street or to retrieve POIs along the specified street between two intersections specified by the user.

30 17. A point of interest (POI) search apparatus as defined in Claim 11, said means for specifying the name of the street includes means for selecting whether to retrieve POIs along an entire range of the specified street, to retrieve POIs along the specified street within a city specified by the user, or to retrieve POIs along the

specified street between two intersections specified by the user.

18. A point of interest (POI) search apparatus for a navigation system, comprising:

5 means for starting a POI search process in which a name of POI or a type of POI is selectable by a user;

 means for performing a search-by-street process in which at least a name of a street is specified by the user;

10 means for retrieving POIs along the street specified by the user and displaying the POIs retrieved along the street to select one of them as a destination; and

 means for determining a route to the destination and performing route guidance to the destination.

15 19. A point of interest (POI) search apparatus as defined in Claim 18, said means for performing the search-by-street process includes means for specifying a name of a city, thereby retrieving POIs along the specified street within the specified city.

20 20. A point of interest (POI) search apparatus as defined in Claim 18, said means for performing the search-by-street process includes means for specifying a first intersection of the street and a second intersection of the street, thereby retrieving POIs along the specified street between the first and second intersections.